Registration of new-borns

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether millions of children born every year in India are unregistered;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the consequences likely to be faced by the unregistered children; and

(c) the time bound action plan towards ensuring birth registration of all the children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As per the latest reports available from the States, it is estimated that out of approximately 25 million births in the country in a year, around 13.5 million births are registered. Therefore, an estimated 11.5 million births may not be getting registered. These details for each State/ Union territory are provided in Statement. (*See* below).

The Birth Certificate is required by children in many situations during the course of their life, including:

(1) First School admission—Made compulsory in many States or parts of the States.

(2) Entry of the name of the newborn in the ration card—Made compulsory in some of the States.

(3) Obtaining passport.

(4) In Courts—as an evidence for proof of age.

Thus children not having the birth certificate are at a disadvantage than those having it.

(c) The following major steps have been taken by the Government to achieve full registration of births:

(1) The Home Minister had written to the Chief Ministers of the

States that have low levels of registration. The Home Secretary had also, on more than one occasion, urged the Chief Secretaries the need on the part of the State Governments to give special attention to this work.

(2) One of the main reasons for poor registration of births in many parts of the country is lack of awareness among the general public about the need and importance of registration. Certain publicity campaigns have, therefore, been launched during the past few years for creating more awareness about the importance of registration of births and deaths. The various media used are radio, T.V., postal stationery, cinema slides, posters and stickers, etc.

(3) Although the responsbility of reporting of births occurring in the house lies with the head of the household, such events may not get reported to the Registrar for registrations due to various reasons. on the advice of the Registrar General's Office, some States have designated health and family welfare workers, anganwadi workers, chowkidars etc. as informants to assist in getting these events registered.

(4) The States have been advised to take strict action against the defaulting medical institutions that do not report the event occurring within the institutions to the local Registrar in time.

(5) The Registrar General, India held detailed review meetings of the Chief Registrars of Births & Deaths of all the States and Union territories for four consecutive years starting from 1996. In these meetings performance of each State was reviewed separately and strategies for improvement of birth and death registration were laid down for appropriate action by the States.

(6) The Registrar General, India has particularly identified the five poorly performing States (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) and conducted two rounds of special meetings to suggest measures for improvement in the registration of births and deaths in the States.

Statement

Number of births expected and registered—India & States, 1995

(In thousands)

	India/State/Union Territory	Expected number of Births	Number of Registered Birth
	India	24802.7	13430.2
	States		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1673.6	575.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.6	15.0
3.	Assam	704.6	NA
4.	Bihar	2968.2	555.2
5.	Goa	18.0	21.7
6.	Gujarat	1164.1	1121.0
7.	Haryana	524.2	384.6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	135.7	97.3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA	157.9
10.	Karnataka	1151.8	979.3
11.	Kerala	548.7	557.8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2319.7	1178.3
13.	Maharashtra	2046.4	1642.3
14.	Manipur	40.4	5.7
15.	Meghalaya	55.0	24.5
16.	Mizoram	NA	15.3
17.	Nagaland	NA	24.4
18.	Orissa	928.2	543.3
19.	Punjab	525.9	485.8
20.	Rajasthan	1557.1	369.3

	India/State/Union Territory	Expected number of Births	Number of Registered Birth
21.	Sikkim	9.7	2.4
22.	Tamil Nadu	1172.2	1058.6
23.	Tripura	58.2	63.4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5162.1	2094.9
25.	West Bengal	1736.2	1116.9
Union Territories			
26.	A & N Islands	5.4	6.9
27.	Chandigarh	12.7	16.1
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4.6	3.9
29.	Daman & Diu	2.5	3.6
30.	Delhi	237.4	275.5
31.	Lakshadweep	1.4	1.2
32.	Pondicherry	16.2	32.2

Note. 1. The number of expected births has been worked out from the estimates of birth rates obtained from Sample Registration System (SRS).

2. The number of births registered exceeds the number of expected birth in Some States/UTs because the people from the neighbouring areas outside these States/UTs come here to avail better medical facilities and due to the *de-facto* method of registration all such births get registered in these States/UTs. In SRS such births are accounted at the place of usual residences of the mothers.

3. The data on number of births registered in Assam has not been received.

4. The expected number of births in case of Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram and Nagaland could not be worked out as SRS birth rates for these States are not available for the year 1995.